

Welcome to OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH



153 Holberton St, Toowoomba | p: 4634 1453 | f: 4634 1940

Email: lol.parish@bigpond.com | <https://lolparish.org.au> 

Priest in Residence - Rev John Quinlan

Parish Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm

Pastoral Coordinator: Jenny Ferguson Email: lol.pastoralcoordinator@gmail.com

Reconciliation: Saturday 4.45pm

Mass times: Saturday: 6:00pm Vigil | Sunday: 9.30am & 5.30pm

weekday masses - Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10am

Primary School: e: lourdes@twb.catholic.edu.au | p: 4591 1200

<https://www.ololtwb.catholic.edu.au>

We would like to acknowledge the Giabal and Jarowair peoples, Traditional Owners of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Sunday, 11th December 2022 Third Sunday of Advent - Year A

First Reading

[Is 35:1-6, 10](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4](#)

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R)

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading

[Jas 5:7-10](#)

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

[Is 61:1 \(Lk 4:18\)](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel

[Mt 11:2-11](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Next Week's Readings (17th/18th December 2022) – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year A
1st Reading: [Is 7:10-14](#) 2nd Reading: [Rom 1:1-7](#) Gospel: [Mt 1:18-24](#)

Parish Activities

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Friday afternoons in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel from 1:00pm - 5:30pm.

ANAM CARA - Wednesday 9.30am in the Presbytery

BAPTISM information nights are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Please phone the office if you wish to attend.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - 9.30AM Mass (except school holidays) for children in Prep - Yr 4.

CRAFT & FRIENDSHIP GROUP - meet every Thursday at 10:30am in the quiet room at the church.

ECUMENISM GROUP - meet the 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30am in the Children's Liturgy Room followed by a cuppa.

LITURGY GROUP - meet every 4th Monday of the month at 7:00pm in the presbytery.

LOURDES PRAYER GROUP - meet after the 10am Mass every Tuesday.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - meet the 1st Monday of each month at 6.30pm in the Presbytery.

SOCIAL JUSTICE - meet 1st Sunday of the month at 10:30am in the quiet room of the Church.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL - meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings in the quiet room at the church at 8:00am.

Parish Councillors

Cristianne Dias, Jon Dwan, Robie Jayawardhana, Jo Johnston, Ray Johnston, Candice Poulton, Julius Soriano, Sue Whitelegg and Bernadette Witham.

Parish Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Representatives:

Our Parish is committed to supporting the right of everybody to be and feel safe. Concerns about the safety of children or vulnerable persons may be raised with our Parish Safeguarding Representatives (**Joe & Sarah Kelly 0437 839 838**). If you believe anybody is at immediate risk of harm you should phone 000. Further details of safeguarding procedures can be found on the noticeboard.

Toowoomba Diocese Safeguarding Resources can be found at <https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/professional-standards-safeguarding-children-the-vulnerable-policy/>

Historical Context

Least and Greatest

Jesus declares that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater even than John whom he has just finishing praising as greatest of all men. It is an indication that in the kingdom, things are not as they are on earth. The blind, lame, deaf, poor and lepers that Jesus named earlier would have been seen as the very lowest of society. Their afflictions were seen as punishments from God and so it was assumed that they, or their parents, had done something to deserve this punishment. Jesus rejects this interpretation and shows these people to be the most open to responding to his message.

Sunday Reflection...

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Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight, ears incapable of capturing and holding sound, limbs without strength, and tongues devoid of speech are all given new life. There will be no death in that age of fulfilment, no limitations, no mourning. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we will discover the meaning of true fulfilment.

John the Baptist is a standard for judging the privilege of entering here and now, the kingdom of heaven. He was the herald of the coming of Jesus, the one who prepared for him, but John himself died before the death and resurrection of Jesus opened the flood gates of the eschatological tide. By comparison, even the least in the kingdom of God is far greater than this prophetic herald. John also serves as a model of patience in suffering. His circumstances teach us that moving toward eschatological fulfilment is not without cost. Just as Matthew presents us with the example of John the Baptist, so James describes the patience required of those who await the age of fulfilment. That age of fulfilment will dawn in its time; all we can do is discharge our responsibilities regardless of how demanding they might be, and wait for that day patiently, convinced that it will come in God's due time.

Living the Gospel

Gaudete!

The third Sunday of Advent was traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The word, gaudete, (pronounced gow-day-tay) is from Latin and means Rejoice! The name was given to this Sunday because the entrance antiphon for the day is: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near. When Advent was observed as a more penitential season, this third Sunday was a break from the sombre mood and was more celebratory. The rose-coloured candle in the Advent wreath and rose-coloured vestments convey a mood of joy and celebration.

Scriptural Context

John the Baptist

Jesus is not recorded as asking the messengers about John's wellbeing. He doesn't appear to express any concern about John's imprisonment. Yet Jesus must have felt this situation very deeply. John the Baptist and Jesus were related; they were cousins. The depth of his feeling is reflected when Jesus speaks so positively and powerfully about John. It reads almost as a eulogy that might be given at a funeral; praising the greatness of the deceased. Yet regardless of John's greatness, Jesus assures his audience that even the least in the kingdom is greater than John.

Thought of the Day...

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



ADVENT IS A TIME OF ANTICIPATION, HOPE AND NEW BEGINNINGS.

Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: Kathleen Rafter, Terry Kajewski, Fr James Byrne, Fr Joseph Callaghan

Those Who Are Sick: Tim & Olivia Zvirblis, Damian Laurence, Fiona Heneghan, Audrey Bentley, Jan Sullivan, Bella Liddy-Morrow, Yvonne Oliveiro, Gregory and Genia Casey, Trish Betros, Noel Lipp, Michael (Micky) Lynch, Kevin Boland, George Streidl, Ros Kettle, Frank Kenneally, Carmel & Ron O'Brien, Lillian Roberts, Brian Thomson, Fr Don Murray, Judy Reardon, Peggy Thies, John Axtell, Ted Schulz, Noel O'Mara, Mick O'Mara, Patrick Wright

December Birthdays: Carmel Ryan, Mary McConachy, John Axtell, David MacGinley, Evie Ward

Parish News...

Sat 10/12	4.45pm Reconciliation 6pm Mass
Sun 11/12	9.30am Mass 5.30pm Mass 6.30pm Carols and Pizza
Mon 12/12	
Tue 13/12	10am Mass 10.30am Prayer Group in the Church
Wed 14/12	10am Mass
Thu 15/12	10am Mass 10.30am Craft Group in the Church
Fri 16/12	

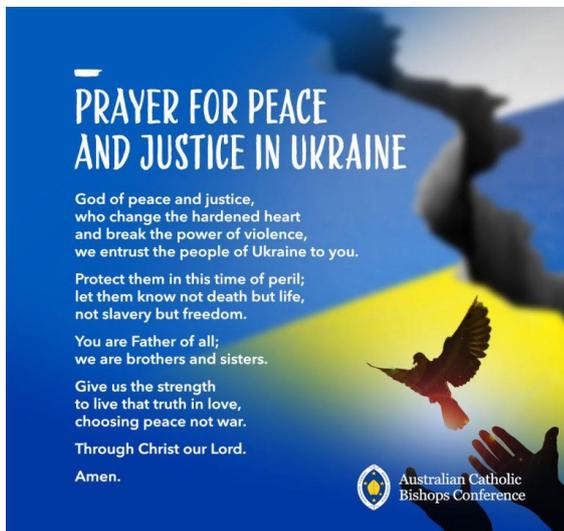
Special Birthday Wishes

Wishing Carmel Ryan a very special 93rd Birthday for the 9th December. We hope you enjoyed your day!



Special Advent Collection For Ukraine this weekend

A second collection will be held this weekend to support refugees and people of Ukraine as winter approaches. Your generous support will be very much appreciated.



Christmas Celebration Dates & Times

Individual Reconciliation

Saturday, December 10th and 17th at 4.45pm and after 10am Mass on the 20th, 21st and 22nd December.

Communal Reconciliation

Monday, 19th December at 6pm

Christmas Masses

Saturday 24th December: 6pm at Salo Centre, Rome St, Newtown.

Sunday 25th December: 8am at OLOL Church

*Note there will be no 9.30am or 5.30pm Mass on the 25th December.

Christmas Masses

Please put your name on the list at the church entrance to indicate your availability to help at any of the following celebrations.

• Monday, 19th Dec: Communal Reconciliation 6pm OLOL

• Saturday, 24th Dec: 6pm Vigil at Salo Centre

• Sunday 25th Dec: 8am Mass at OLOL Church

Christmas Transport

If you need transport or are able to provide transport to the Christmas Masses, both at the Salo Centre or OLOL Church, please advise the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Christmas Choir Practice

The choir enhances our Christmas celebrations and plays a key role in how our community experiences the Christmas season. Please consider joining the choir for these special celebrations. There will be a practice after 9.30am Mass on the 11th Dec at OLOL church and another practice at 11.30am on the 18th December at the Salo Centre.

Christmas Mass Setup

Sunday, 18th December after the 9.30am Mass at the Salo Centre.

Time	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
17 th Dec at 6pm	E Ward	Ward Family	A Lasserre	S Lasserre B Smith	M & M Quinn	N Doyle	M Cushway	D Clark
18 th Dec at 9.30am	E Dwan A Dwan	V Bowe A Mullins	J Anderson	C Rawlinson Cristianne Dias	Coonan Family	M Ondrus	Dias Family	Cristianne & S Dias
18 th Dec at 5.30pm	N Obst E Obst	J & C Sullivan	T Haylock	V O'Connell C Smith	A Bishop G Doherty	J Axtell	K Langdale	M Ryan

Week 3 –The Advent Journey Continues 10th/11th December

A Christmas nativity is another popular symbol used during the Advent Season. The word nativity is taken from the Latin *nativus*, which means “arisen by birth.”

The Liturgy Committee adopt the practice of a progressive nativity theme, where we display the story of the journey of Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem, culminating with the birth of Jesus.

This week we focus on Joy. Happiness is an emotion that can disappear as quickly as it arises. Joy, however, is a choice. God gives us a joy that is unconquerable.

We can choose to live in an attitude of resentment, anger and fear or we can choose to pursue the joy of Christ.

- Joy is trusting when you want to doubt.
- Joy is receiving what you want to reject.
- Joy is celebrating when you want to fear.

How blessed are we to have someone by our side in our greatest victories and most humiliating defeats!



OLOL SPRED Group Celebrates

The SPRED Group gathered last weekend to celebrate Christmas, Kenny's 60th birthday and to farewell Veronica and Nancy. Santa even made an appearance. How lucky!



After 30 and 13 years respectively Veronica and Nancy have retired from SPRED. The OLOL SPRED Community thanks both these ladies for their invaluable contribution to the group. They will be dearly missed.



Happy 60th birthday Kenny!!

Thanks Santa

Q. What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

A. Tinsillitis!

Q. What type of shoes does Santa wear when he travels on a train?

A. Platforms!

Aid to the Church in Need Australia: That Catholic Shop Christmas orders from Aid to the Church in Need's online store – That Catholic Shop – can still be made all the way up to 19 December! Choose from our broad range of religious gifts and receive free shipping for orders over \$100. Peruse our Christmas range at www.thatcatholicshop.com

Prayer for 3rd Week of Advent

Father in heaven, help us hear again the voice of John the Baptist crying out in the desert. Help us make straight the pathways of our own lives so that those paths lead to eternal life with you.

God above, do good and avoid evil is so easy to say, yet so hard to put into practice. Be with us in each and every moment of each and every day so that we remain blameless and worthy of your coming.

Help us, Lord, not to dampen the joy of others. Remind us this week to rejoice always and to pray without ceasing.

Holy Spirit, guide us so that our lives may be testimony of the wonders and the love of God, so that others might believe through us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

OLOL Christmas Tree

A Christmas Tree at the back of the church has been decorated with envelopes from various charities. You may like to donate to one of the charities included below either on your own behalf, or as a special Christmas token to a loved one in place of a present.



Money Collection During Mass

To assist the money collectors and ensure a smoother collection process, would you please take the plate and pass it along to the people next to/behind you, even if you are not placing anything on the plate. Thank you.

A special thanks from Vinnies & the Social Justice Group

The OLOL St Vincent de Paul Conference and Social Justice Group extend a very sincere thank you to all the parishioners of our parish who donated so generously to this year's hamper appeal and for your support throughout the year. Your kindness puts the joy in Christmas for struggling families and helps these organisations provide practical support to get families through Christmas and beyond. Thank You!!

